MODERN TIMES

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VOL. 11 NO. 17 **New Haven** JAN. 1-14, 1971

Young tenants at Elm Haven cavorting in playground. (M-T photo by Gene Frankel)

Project Tenants Win Housing Repair Jobs

by David Adams
Modern Times Staff

Public housing tenants in New Haven will get priority for construction jobs to modernize the city's public housing. Tenants will also participate fully in the planning and inspection of the job. These are terms of a "Memorandum of Understanding," the first of its kind in Connecticut, worked out by the Tenants Representative Council with the New Haven Housing Authority last month.

The first contract under the new plan, a heating system for Quinnipiac Terrace in Fair Haven, will follow an agreement reached by tenants, contractor, and the Housing Authority on December 20.

"It means some part-time jobs for some of our tenants. We don't know how many yet, but I'm hoping that we have some people to take skilled jobs," said Alma Beck, one of three Quinnipiac Terrace tenants who helped work out the specifics of the heating system contract. Annie Barrett and Herbert Randall, also of the Quinnipiac Community Action Organization, were the other tenant participants.

The terms of the "memorandum of understanding" will also apply to modernization work to be done at Elm Haven, Brookside-Rockview, and Farnum Courts, in addition to other work at Quinnipiac Terrace.

Tenant participation was originally provided in the federal guidelines for public housing modernization, but in most cases there has been only token participation. Work done under the 1969 modernization is still under dispute, according to Alberta Russell of the Dixwell Neighborhood Corporation.

"Some bathrooms didn't get finished," Russell told Modern Times "Some people's tiles never got put in place. *We need inspectors, and we need inspectors who know what they need and what they want. Inspectors from downtown won't do.*"

When the New Haven Housing Authority applied again for federal modernization money last spring, the Authority ignored demands by New Haven tenants for full participation.

The Tenants Representative Council,

See TENANTS' COUNCIL, page 8

Abortion Suit Reaches Court

Connecticut women will soon have their day in court to challenge the constitutionality of the State's anti-abortion laws. Nearly nine months after 858 Connecticut women filed their suit against the anti-abortion laws in federal court in Hartford, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that their case should be heard.

Last April Federal Judge T. Emmett Clarie dismissed the womens' complaint on technical grounds. The decision of the Court of Appeals, released on December 13, reverses Judge Clarie's opinion in part. It was only a qualified victory for women involved in the suit, however, because it restricts those allowed to participate. Plaintiffs must be either in the medical or counseling professions or pregnant.

The attorneys for Women vs. Connecticut, the New Haven-based organizing group for the suit, had argued that all women of child-bearing age are injured by the existence of anti-abortion laws and are therefore entitled to challenge those laws.

The court of Appeals did not accept this argument and dismissed the women's complaint "as to all plaintiffs except women physicians, nurses, medical personell and others who perform, or assist in the performance of, abortions or who counsel concerning abortions." Women vs. Connecticut attorneys were also permitted to amend their complaint to include any pregnant women who want to join the suit.

Many New Haven women who have worked on the suit since its inception found the Court of Appeal's decision a mixed blessing. Judy Robison, a coordinator for Women vs. Connecticut, on reading the decision commented:

"It is simply unrealistic to think that only pregnant women are affected by the anti-abortion laws. We have many women as plaintiffs who have already been injured by those barbaric laws and many more who are now being injured by them. Some of our plaintiffs, that the Court refused to include in the suit, have had to get illegal abortions and have been physically and emotionally damaged for life by their sordid experiences. Other plaintiffs *have compelling medical or psychological reasons for not getting pregnant or* having children.

"But the Court has told us in its opinion that these women are not being injured simply because they live in fear of getting pregnant and having no recourse but to risk their lives having children. It really makes me angry that the Court has not been able to see that women do not have to be pregnant to suffer from the effects of the anti-abortion laws."

100 Year old Law

The current anti-abortion laws of Connecticut are more than 100 years old. They create three classes of persons who can be punished for encouraging or helping a woman to get an abortion unless the abortion is necessary to save the woman's life.

The strictest penalty is against individuals who perform abortions or counsel a woman to seek an abortion. The woman herself is also subject to arrest and prosecution for seeking or getting an abortion.

The third group is individuals who advertise, publish, or lecture about abortions.

Women vs. Connecticut brought a suit in federal court in Hartford last spring challenging all three parts of the law on constitutional grounds. Their constitutional arguments focussed on the woman's right to decide whether or not to have children.

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Connecticut women at rally supporting abortion lawsuit. A recent ruling will by a federal court of appeals will permit the case to come to court. (M-T photo by Virginia Blaisdell)

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Open Line Income Tax Still Needed

We invite contributions from our readers for the Open Line Column The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of Modern Times.

by Irving Stolberg
Democratic State Representative

Those who think that Connecticut's tax battle is over are mistaken. Our revenue picture is more muddled than ever. Our state still finds itself sorely in need of an equitable and progressive income tax.

The blame for the tax debacle in 1971 must be shared by politicians, the news media, and the public at large. The tax issue is badly misunderstood by many people. The *New Haven Register* embarked on an anti-income tax crusade of diatribe and misinformation which marked a new low in New Haven area journalism. And far too many political leaders found it easier to pander to misunderstanding and misinformation rather than give the people the hard facts.

The tax issue must be seen from its economic and its political perspectives. In terms of economics and equity most economists and politicians, liberal and conservative, recognize the need for a progressive income tax. Such a tax takes a greater percentage from high incomes than from lower earnings. A sales tax, the alternative, is regressive: rich and poor pay at the same rate, but since lower income families spend more of their earnings on taxable items, they wind up paying a larger share. In the political arena, however, the income tax is thrownto the lions by some politicians who privately admit its superiority but oppose it to satisfy the folks back home.

In the 1971 session many legislators joined me in pressing for immediate and direct dealing with the tax question. As in past sessions, however, it got caught up in partisan political parleying. Finally, after several aborted or vetoed efforts, we were faced on the last day with two alternative bills.

One was an income tax with several major flaws (from my point of view). It hit pretty hard at lower and middle income people while higher incomes benefitted. It contained an allocation of some eighty million dollars to satisfy the Govenor's economically-unsound desire to make a major payment on the state deficit. It provided for regressive tuition increases at our state colleges and university.

The alternative was so grisly and so regressive that the proposed income tax bill, for all its faults, passed by a slim margin.

Many of us in the legislature hoped to improve the bill and eliminate its most serious flaws. The public clamor, whipped to a frenzy by the Jacksons' newspaper crusade in the *Register*, resulted in another special session. Unfortunately, concern over political hides prevailed over common sense, and instead of the income tax being improved in the interest of most of the people, it was repealed and a regressive *ad hoc* package thrown together around the highest sales tax in the nation.

Fiscal Regression

Not only was the substitute package a regressive one, but the revenue and expenditures were inclined toward imbalance. The threat of an imbalanced budget for the year gave Governor Meskill the excuse he needed to slash away at the cities, welfare, education, and other areas which were not as important to him as a balanced budget.

Thus the legislature's inability to face squarely the tax problem wound up hitting hardest at the poor and the working people, especially in our cities.

Despite this dismal picture we have made some progress. For the first time this year many organizations recognized the need for an income tax. The League of Women Voters, the Chambers of Commerce and the AFL-CIO were all basically on the right side. Now the message has to filter down to the grass roots so the people won't be misled again.

We have received additional incentive. Governor Meskill, on his return from a recent Washington trip, had to admit that Connecticut would be at the bottom of the federal revenue - sharing barrel if we did not get our own fiscal house in order.

We are today one of only six or eight states not adequately and equitably tapping our own resources with an income tax. Instead of Republicans and Democrats frantically trying to blame each other for an income tax now they will be able to point the finger at the federal government if they desire.

The AFL-CIO has now come up with one of the best income tax proposals the legislature has had to examine. When the 1972 session convenes in February, taxes will once again be the major order of business. If we get to work right away, perhaps the labor proposal can provide the basis for fair taxation in Connecticut -- for the first time in a long time.

Christmas demonstration at Whalley Avenue Jail. (M-T photo by V. Blaisdell)

Vigil for Angela Davis

Modern Times Staff

The New Haven Committee to Free Angela Davis co-sponsored a Christmas day vigil at the Whalley Avenue Correctional Center with the New Haven chapter of the Young Workers Liberation League (YWLL). The organizations called for the freedom of Angela Davis and all political prisoners and demonstrated at the jail to express solidarity with the prisoners there. Various community, church and legal groups participated with the initial sponsors.

The demonstration took place from 11 a.m. to noon on Christmas day in response to a call for similar actions all over the country on that day, from the National United Committee to Free Angela Davis and All Political Prisoners.

*About 75 people were there demon*strating enthusiastically and shouting "free the poor; jail the rich." The prisoners responded by banging their bars and shouting support for the demonstrators. In New Haven, the focus was on the terrible conditions prisoners at Whalley Ave. jail are forced to live under.

One of the biggest problems in the 150 year-old structure is inadequate heating. In winter it is always very cold inside. In addition to the generally dilapidated physical conditions, programs for prisoners are either non-existent or poor. There is no educational program and no recreational program in winter. Staffing is inadequate.

Most prisoners at Whalley Ave. are awaiting trial and have not yet been ruled guilty. However they are not assumed innocent, as is their constitutional right. Mail is censored and there is little information available concerning bail and other legal rights.

The Angela Davis Committee and the YWLL hope to work with the different groups in this area that are currently investigating conditions at the jail and working for reforms. Several groups issued statements protesting the conditions at the jail. The groups included NARCO, Dixwell Legal Rights, Christian Community Action, New Haven MCHR, Trade Unionists for Action and Democracy, Committee for Peace and Justice, High School Committee to Free Angela Davis.

HNC Fights For Funds

Modern Times Staff

In a public hearing over cuts in the new budget for the Hill Neighborhood Corporation (HNC) director Roger Everson stated that he felt the Corporation had been reasonably successful and should receive the second-year funds it had requested.

The hearing, called by the Aldermanic Committee on Model Cities, was held December 20, to evaluate the first year of the Model Cities program. The issue was the projected cut in funding from $180,000 to $102,000 for HNC.

That afternoon, the Corporation had conducted a door-to-door petition drive to rally the Hill community behind its budget request. About 100 Hill residents came out to the hearing to voice support for HNC, and Everson presented the Committee with 1200 signatures.

The City Demonstration Agency (CDA) presented its case first. CDA has general responsibility for the Model Cities program, and wrote the budget cutting the HNC funds.

Executive Director Vernon Moore charged HNC with failing to submit its reporting forms on schedule, and said there was considerable duplication of effort between HNC and CDA. Then Alderman Elliot Segal asked for more detail on exactly why HNC's budget had been cut so heavily. Moore said CDA had not made a formal evaluation of HNC's performance.

Everson then spoke for HNC. He pointed out that the Corporation's basic responsibility under Model Cities is to generate community involvement, and claimed that 1500 to 2000 Hill residents had actively worked on Model Cities programs. Many more received services through such facilities as the Hill Health Center. (The Model Cities neighborhood has approximately 22,000 residents).

He also asserted that CDA, and Moore in particular, had not fully cooperated with HNC during the year.

Evelyn Rogers, HNC Board President, spoke after Everson in support of the cut in the HNC budget. She said HNC had not developed "rapport" with the community, and that citizen participation was far too low to justify continued funding of HNC at the same level.

When Everson spoke again, he offered to resign if the Board of Directors of HNC did not want him to continue. At the Board meeting the next night, Everson was given a unanimous vote of support.

The day after the HNC board meeting, Rogers - who was not present at the Board vote - announced her immediate resignation as President of the Board, and repeated her desire that HNC's budget be cut in favor of other neighborhood programs.

Author Hits Union Myths

by Phil Singerman
Yale Graduate Student

"What Nixon Doesn't Know About Unions — And How He Will Find Out" was the subject of a recent talk in New Haven by a long time union activist and former Director of Education of the UAW

Mr. Brendon Sexton, Professor of Metropolitan Studies at New York University, co-author with Patricia Cayo Sexton of *Blue Collars and Hard Hats*, speaking before an interested group of 30 students and community people in Dwight Hall, corrected common misunderstandings about the American labor movement.

Unions are not declining in numbers, the labor movement does not exclude blacks, and union members are not all over thirty, Sexton explained. Citing a study by Chicago's Urban League, he showed that unions have a higher percentage of blacks in decision-making positions than other institutions, including banks and universities.

Richard Nixon thinks that he can appeal to workers over George Meany's head, but according to Sexton, he will be surprised in next fall's elections. Workers know that President Meany of the AFL-CIO is defending their interests and that President Nixon of the USA is trying to drive down their standard of living.

In answer to a question, Mr. Sexton pointed to union growth among public service employees, such as post office workers, among white collar workers, such as teachers, and among Southern workers, as a sign of the vitality of the labor movement.

Sexton was raised in an Irish Catholic community in New York, and worked in steel mills and auto plants. He describes himself as a Socialist and states that Socialism helped him make many decisions in his life.

He became a trade unionist because he saw unions as a way of moving society toward socialism. For many years he was president of a UAW local in Michigan, and later Director of Organization for the UAW.

Harry Kaplan Relives Labor History

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

Harry Kaplan is a New Haven union leader. He is a very busy man. A few weeks ago he kindly agreed to give **Modern Times** an interview. We asked him what he thought about the past and future of working people in New Haven. We also asked for his thoughts about the past and future of the labor union movement.

His answers were laced with laughs about some mistakes, with pride in labor's achievements and with an occasional sad shaking of his head when he told of disappointments. We print here some highlights of his story covering the thirty years he has been a union activist.

Harry Kaplan has a title: Field Organizer for the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE, for short). Over 150,000 UE members across the country pay the monthly dues (minimum= $5.50) a tiny portion of which goes for his salary. That salary, by the way, is not allowed to be more than the wage of the highest paid UE member in the shop.

1500 Members

In the New Haven area, some 1500 workers are members of four UE locals. The largest is Local No. 243 covering workers at the Sargent Co.; Local No. 298 covers MB Electronics; Local No. 296 covers the Safety Electric Equipment Corp.

Four smaller plants together make up Local No. 299: Whitney-Blake, American Tube Bending Co., Wire Machinery Corp., and the Entoleter Co. Every UE-organized company has a union shop: all workers who have been employed over 30 days are union members.

As I scribbled down these basic facts, I noticed a certain sadness flicker across Kaplan's eyes. I started to ask about it, but he jumped right to the point ahead of me. "We once had one of Connecticut's biggest unions, representing over 45,000 workers here. But that was in 1950, before the trouble hit."

"When I got back from the war and from my time in the 78th Infantry Division, big things were happening in the labor movement." Kaplan explained how the years from 1937 to 1942 had seen massive and successful union organizing drives sweep across Connecticut as well as the rest of the US. When he joined the UE while working at the Columbia Records plant in Bridgeport, it was 1941. The UE was just reaching peak strength.

UE Organized GE

"We had done a good organizing job. The UE had organized General Electric workers nationwide into one union with one contract. The big test was 1946." Kaplan explained the 1946 agreement of the electrical workers with the auto and steel workers' unions. They were going to strike the big auto and big steel and big electrical all together on the same day and for the same objective: a $2 per day increase for all workers.

"Well, things did not go exactly as planned, but in the end the workers won the strike." In these modest words, Kaplan described one of the biggest labor vs. corporation battles in our history.

The strikes were bitter, some lasting many weeks. Labor, using the combined strength of three of its biggest union organizations, showed it had the muscle to win. "But," Kaplan added with a mixture of anger, frustration and sadness, "we can lose in the legislature's halls what we win in collective bargaining. And that happened after we won the strikes of 1946.

"GE led the other corporations in trying to get laws after 1946 that would break the unions, especially our union, the UE." GE's efforts proved successful. In 1947, Congress passed the *Taft-Hartley Act* which severely weakened unions and the entire labor movement. Talking fast, Kaplan explained how the Act hurt the UE.

"Taft-Hartley allows a company to petition the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to decertify the union representing its workers." The law allows the company to do this when it has the "phoney excuse of claiming not to know which union really represents the workers." Kaplan was showing his anger. "You know, the lawyer who wrote the Taft-Hartley law was also employed by the GE company; he knew what he was doing."

"So as soon as the law was in effect, the trouble hit." James B. Carey, a former UE official, broke away from the UE and started a rival union claiming to represent electrical workers. That gave GE its chance to use the Taft-Hartley law to "decertify" *the UE in its plants and call for a new union election.*

"Then GE built up a huge red smear campaign against the UE, calling us communists, and saying we were dominated by outside political organizations." Kaplan had a disgusted look on his face. "What a phoney claim--the UE has always been run by its membership and by leaders elected by the membership."

Senator Joseph McCarthy went travelling around the country calling UE leaders "communists." "As soon as McCarthy named them, GE fired them."

"The pressure, the daily lies and accusations in the newspapers, radio and TV -- all these, frankly, scared many of our members. They were not prepared to strike to prevent the destruction of the union." GE was able to engineer union election after union election in which the UE was voted out and the rival, Carey-led IUE (the I stands for International) was voted in. Kaplan estimates that UE represented over 400,000 workers in 1950, but only 150,000 in 1955.

Merge to Strength

GE had split its workers into two rival unions: divide and conquer. GE and the other electrical giant, Westinghouse (which recently bought out the Blakeslee Co.), did well in the years that followed. It took 25 years until last year's GE strike before the two unions, UE and IUE could come together to face the corporation. When they did, they found again that they could win. Now there is talk of a merger between them.

For those 25 years, Harry Kaplan has served as one of the UE's key organizers in the greater New Haven-Bridgeport area. He fought to keep the union together during those difficult times, working closely with the local unionists who stuck loyally with the UE. "I believe in the labor movement. New Haven was a sweat shop town not so may years ago. The union movement changed all that."

He still spends his time working to unionize the still unorganized workers in Connecticut. "Look, our members know that their jobs and *wages and working conditions are not safe so long as the companies can go elsewhere to take advantage of unorganized labor.*

So organizing is a very important job. It's my job. It's what my members pay me to do. And I'll tell you something,. I like working for the union. I made the right choice when I started working for the UE back in 1941."

Hospital Wants Job Cuts

Yale-New Haven Hospital Dietary Worker Alexander Mooring (MT photo by Ray Milici)

by Ray Milici
Hospital Workers Newsletter

Yale New Haven dietary workers have been hearing a lot about Centralized Tray Service lately from the hospital bosses.

At the height of the organizing drive (the beginning of this year) dietary workers heard Mrs. Peck and Miss Blackley (Administrative Dieticians) and others say Centralized Tray Service would create more jobs.

This type of statement along with many others made by the administration successfully swayed enough dietary workers away from supporting a union. Now it's a different story.

For instance, Mrs. Peck had this to say, and we quote: "If two dietary employees leave *for whatever reasons*, we'll hire one employee to take their place."

Miss Blackley told some dietary workers that those who are "too old or too slow" will have to transfer out of the Dietary Department.

The way it works now the main kitchen cooks and delivers the food to the small kitchenettes on all the wards. There the dietary workers set up the trays, serve the patients, wash the dishes and more.

When all of this becomes centralized in the main kitchen, many jobs will be eliminated. There are now about 200 dietary jobs. Centralized Tray Service can probably operate with 100 workers or less.

It is easy to see the reason Centralized Tray Service is coming. It's a matter of dollars and cents. It's a lot cheaper to centralize and automate than to pay dietary worker salaries. Without protection such as union security, it will mean the end of many dietary jobs – an obvious loss to us, and to the country in this time of unemployment.

The hospital administration seems to have the peculiar ability of saving money at the workers' expense. We think it is safe to say the hospital bosses will not lay off anyone at this time, for one simple reason.

They will be obligated to contribute to the State's unemployment fund, and that costs money. The Concerned Hospital Workers (CHW) issued this warning to all dietary workers, "If you find yourself being picked on, intimidated or harassed, maybe your boss is trying to get you to quit *for whatever reasons*."

Labor Notes

WEST COAST LONGSHOREMEN TO CONTINUE STRIKE

West Coast Longshoremen voted by an overwhelming majority to continue their strike after an 80-day Taft-Hartley injunction ran out on December 25. The issue still at stake is job security. The shipping companies would like truckers to handle cargo where possible in large containers transferred automatically onto trucks. The West Coast dock workers see this as a threat to their jobs in the future unless they get some guarantees of continued employment. The strike is scheduled to resume on January 1. Their hundred day strike had been ended on October 9 by a Taft-Hartley injunction.

CORPORATE TAX BENEFITS

Corporate taxes keep going down and down! According to MIT economist Lester Thurow, since 1950, the effective rate of corporate taxation has fallen from 42% to 24%. This has been accomplished through the gradual erosion of taxable income by allowing more generous depreciation allowances, and investment tax credits. Thurow estimates that Nixon's proposals for more accelerated depreciation and new investment tax credits would bring the tax rate on corporations down to 16%.

TENTATIVE SETTLEMENT REACHED AT COTT

More than 100 workers of the Distillery, Rectifying, Wine and Allied Workers International Union have reached a tentative contract settlement with the Cott Beverage Company in New Haven. James McGrail, Business Agent for the Union stated that the agreement calls for a 7% wage increase in the first year of the contract and 5.5% in each of the next two years. The contract also includes a major medical plan for the workers plus Blue Cross and CMS hospital coverage. McGrail indicated that the contract will become final when it is approved by the Pay Board in Washington.

Socialist Economist Speaks: U.S. Economic Reign Ending

Paul M. Sweezy, independent socialist economist, writer, and editor, speaks to a full house at a December 15 event sponsored by and for Modern Times. (M-T photo by G. Frankel.)

by Peter O'Connell
Modern Times Staff

America's foremost Marxist economist, Paul M. Sweezy, came to New Haven December 15 and spoke at a benefit for **Modern Times**. He analyzed the causes and the consequences of Nixon's "new economic policy," which marks the end of the 25-year long United States domination of the world economy.

Sweezy, editor of **Monthly Review**, spoke for **Modern Times** at the home of David and Alice Goldberg,prominent members of New Haven's progressive community. About 90 persons attended. The economist was introduced by Rev. Willard Uphaus, who with Sweezy was at the center of a civil liberties controversy in New Hampshire during the Joe McCarthy era.

Sweezy's talk on"The World Economic Crisis: Causes and Consequences" began with a historical perspective on the development of imperialism as a necessary part of capitalism. After 400 years of struggle among capitalist powers -- Portugal, Spain, Holland, Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Italy -- for control of markets, natural resources, labor supplies, and investment fields, the United States emerged dominant at the end of World War II.

Bretton Woods System

One of the most important of the institutions that the United States devised for managing the areas that it wished to dominate was the Bretton Woods monetary system. Under the Bretton Woods system, dollars spent by the United States abroad in excess of money gained from foreign countries could be redeemed by those foreign countries in gold at the rate of $35 an ounce.

Because of the activities of its corporations and military, the United States generally spent more abroad than it could redeem in gold supplies. Other countries did not press for redemption in gold because they were afraid of rocking the worldcapitalist boat and being taken over by socialists and revolutionaries. The Vietnam war, however, caused big trouble for the Bretton Woods scheme. Crises in 1967 and 1968 were followed at the beginning of 1971 by a big outpouring of dollars by U.S. businessmen who saw currency revaluation coming.

Nixon's hand was forced. His "new economic policy" announced on August 15 marked the end of American domination of the world economy. Now, Sweezy pointed out, a new period of struggle is beginning among the capitalist powers, in addition to the ongoing struggle between the capitalist powers as a whole on the one hand and the socialist and the underdeveloped countries on the other hand. The socialist countries with their centrally-planned economies are not seriously harmed by the monetary crisis.

To overcome its current debt, the United States seeks to reverse the flow of money out of the country and make a balance of payments surplus into this country of $9 billion. But in order for the United States to make such a surplus, other countries, such as Germany and Japan, that are dependent on being able to export, will have to take a deficit instead. The capitalists of such countries are not likely to accept this situation.

Contradictions of Capitalism

Devaluation of the dollar only staves off struggle for a brief period. The only solution to the problem is for the U.S. to stop spending huge amounts of military money around the world. The U.S. cannot do this, though, because military force is needed to dominate markets, natural resources, labor supplies, and investment fields.

Capitalism is caught in a contradiction. The U.S. is weaker. The struggle of the Vietnamese people for a better life contributed significantly to excessive U.S. spending abroad. Other revolutionary forces will learn from the Vietnamese.

Sweezy concluded that the present time is an "historic turning point " and that the international financial world is now like a thieves' quarrel. "When thieves quarrel, honest men may profit," for Sweezy, capitalists are the thieves and revolutionary socialists are the honest men who can profit from the present world crisis.

In the question period following his talk, Sweezy discussed Chile, Brazil, China, the United Nations, the wage-price freeze, the possibilities of war and depression, the nature of socialism, and **Modern Times**. Concerning **Modern Times**, Sweezy said: "What **Modern Times** is doing is the right thing. But it's small, and there aren't many others like it around the country."

The Sweezy appearance is the second in a series of public events that **Modern Times** is sponsoring.

PAY BOARD SQUEEZES WAGES

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

The Pay Board is presently deadlocked over negotiated wage increases for 300,000 aerospace workers. The 16,000 production employees of Pratt and Whitney in Connecticut who just negotiated a new contract must now wait it out until 1972.

The Pay Board recessed on December 21 until January 4 after a two day session on the aerospace wage increase. Most of the contracts by the United Auto Workers and the International Association of Machinists with the giant aerospace companies call for a first year raise of 12%. The business and public members of the board seemed determined to slice the 12% increase, so the labor members agreed to a two week recess. (The Pay Board consists of five business representatives, five labor representatives, and five "public" members).

Business Resists

After the Pay Board session on the Aerospace contracts, the business members announced that they would resist any scheduled pay increases greater than 7% - either from a new contract or old contract. This new resolve of the business members of the Pay Board is a response to pressure from the price commission . The price commission has ruled that companies generally would not be allowed to pass on to higher prices any wage increases above the 5.5% guideline.

The aerospace contracts provide raises of 30% over the 34 month life of the contract. The unions (UAW and IAM) and aerospace management claimed that the largest portion of the wage increases don't really come under the 5.5% guideline.

For example, in the contract of the UAW with North American Rockwell about 34 cents of the first year hourly increase was accumulated under a cost of living escalator clause in the old contract. Only about 17 cents an hour of the first year increase counts as new wages. In fact, the unions claim that new raises and fringe benefits amount to only 5.46%.

This new resolve to clamp down on wages by the business members of the Pay Board is a response to pressure by President Nixon and the Price Commission -- -- especially after the 15% coal miner wage settlement was allowed to go through.

Business Member Talks

A few weeks ago Rocco Siciliano, a business member of the Pay Board was interviewed by the *New York Times*. Siciliano is president of the TI Corporation (of California) which is a holding company for insurance concerns.

Siciliano described the Pay Board as a "government-endorsed collective bargaining session." He said that the business members of the Pay Board felt that the coal miners would strike if the 15% contract were not approved.

"No doubt, no question as to whether the men would work," said Sicialiano, "they would not. This is historically the most individualistic work force in America." Therefore, the threat of a continued strike was not only the United Mine Workers' power against the coal companies, but also against the business members of the Pay Board.

Siciliano described the strategy of the business members of the Pay Board as the "bubble theory." "You either prick the bubble and say 'absolutely no' or you allow the bubble to continue for a while and gradually smooth it out over a period of a year or a year and a half."

The business members obviously have decided to prick the bubble now with their announcement of 7% as the absolute maximum wage increase for old or new contracts. Siciliano felt that the toughest battle on the pay board will be on retroactive wages for the period of the freeze - August 15 to November 14.

Confidence For Whom

How does Siciliano explain his role to businessmen? "I've met in the Los Angeles area with groups that usually include managers of some very large businesses. One of the first things I do is to tell them to relax, have confidence, and not wait for chapter and verse on every situation."

American workers have little reason to relax and have confidence. The aerospace workers around the country and in Connecticut end up sitting it out and watching the "government endorsed collective bargaining session" of the Pay Board to find out what they're in for next year.

WATCHDOG COMMITTEE

The Greater New Haven Central **Labor Council - AFL - CIO is now setting up a Price Watchdog Committee. All labor, community, or consumer groups in the New Haven area are invited to participate on this committee. The committee will monitor prices in the New Haven area and expose the price control system of Nixon's Phase II if it finds that business is easily getting around it. If your group is interested in working on the committee, write:**

Vincent Sirabella
Central Labor Council
45 Water St.
New Haven, Conn. 06511

The Yale Non-Faculty Action Committee (YNFAC) held a Christmas party on December 18. YNFAC is continuing its drive to unionize Yale non-faculty workers. (M-T photo by A. Kay.)

West Haven Welfare MOMS Recycle Toys

by Leslie Church
Service Worker, State Welfare

"I made out like a bandit," said one Welfare mother gleefully as she left the West Haven Community House last week. She was laden down with Christmas toys for her children.

Other West Haven Welfare mothers shared her enthusiasm as they selected gifts at greatly reduced prices during the West Haven MOMS Christmas Fair. Spirits were high and toys plentiful. The sale was on. But much work went into the production.

The week-long sale, limited only to State Welfare recipients, got under way Dec. 20 with more than 1,000 individual items of toys and clothing. State Senator John Prete attended the opening and exchanged holiday greetings with shoppers. Sales for the first night totalled over $40, according to acting chairman Mrs. Margaret Messore.

November Toy Drive

The West Haven MOMS began their drive for toys toward the end of November when members sent out approximately 80 letters to stores, churches, private clubs and interested persons to seek support for their first organized activity.

Publicity for the drive was extensive and included posters placed strategically in key stores and shopping plazas, newspaper notices and numerous individual contacts. Churches were asked to make announcements of the event and to enter it in their weekly calendar.

Donated toys ranged from new items fresh off the display shelves to well-worn old favorites tucked away in attics and closets. Numerous items of clothing enhanced the gayly arranged tables at the Community House and cash contributions were happily accepted.

Only a few of the area's larger stores contributed Christmas gifts. The majority of items came from churches and private groups. In addition several individuals provided the MOMS with new and used clothing.

Free to Fifty Cents

Gifts were displayed accordings to price which ranged from $.50 to $.05. The largest table was marked "free," and it was possible for any AFDC mother--no matter how limited her funds--to obtain presents for her children to open at Christmas. The West Haven Community House provided all necessary facilities and extended their full cooperation.

Proceeds from the sale will be used for future activities. One project being seriously considered is a MOMS store, staffed by and run for West Haven Welfare mothers. Several private and church groups have expressed an interest in continuing their contributions to the MOMS after the holidays, and a store for food, clothing and toys is a very real possibility.

Details of this enterprise will be discussed during meetings in the next month and interested West Haven mothers are encouraged to attend the Monday, 7:30 p.m. meetings at the Community House.

Many of the donations have been coordinated through the Revitalization Corps, a private, non-profit, anti-poverty group. The New Haven branch of the national organization, named America's "Domestic Peace Corps," is staffed by volunteers, some of whom may be available to help service the MOMS store. Clothing contributions will continue to be channelled through the Corps to the MOMS.

Formed Around Crisis

The West Haven MOMS began with a handful of Welfare mothers concerned with the current crisis in the state's AFDC program and interested in getting together to share problems and offer mutual support, in addition to organizing projects in their behalf.

The group currently has approximately two dozen members, most of whom actively participated in the Christmas drive. Recruiting for new members among West Haven's more than 400 AFDC families is top priority for the coming year.

Acting chairman Mrs. Margaret Messore has named temporary officers to assist her until elections which are scheduled for the beginning of the year: vice chairwoman, Mrs. Judy DelNero; treasurer, Mrs. Mary Lou McGilton; secretary, Mrs. Mona LeMaire.

Linda Tucker (L.) and Pearl Tucker (R.) and children look over toys at West Haven Welfare Moms Sale. (M-T photo by P. Gill.)

Mrs. Messore's son examines the toy cameras at Welfare Moms sale. (M-T photo by P. Gill.)

MOMS Hit Welfare Comm.

by Modern Times Staff

"Commissioner White must have more power than the Governor. He seems immune to the law, and orders of the Courts." This appraisal of Welfare Commissioner Henry C. White's position was told to *Modern Times* by Matilda Gibbs, President of the Welfare MOMS of New Haven.

"He's been found in contempt of court once, and if he keeps ignoring the courts orders, he'll be found in contempt again." She was referring to U.S. District Judge M. J. Blumenfeld's December seventh contempt citation of White because he ignored the courts injuction of October 28th.

The injunction was to temporarily halt the institution of the proposed Family Assistance Plan (FAP). This plan consists of a flat grant of money, and has no provisions allowing for special needs such as appliance repairs, special clothing, or other nonrecurrent needs.

The injunction ordered the Welfare Department to temporarily halt FAP until the problem of special needs would be resolved. They were to pay for such needs in accordance with the policies effective before August 16. That was the date when FAP began to go into effect, without provisions for special needs.

"Friday, December 10, a group of MOMS went to Director John Hurter's office on Bassett Street and handed him a list of our needs. He said he could not grant any money until he got direction from Mr. White's office.

"We went back to Hurter's office on Wednesday, December 15, but there was no word, and no money."

Modern Times asked Matilda Gibbs what she planned to do with the apparent inaction of the Welfare Department. She said she would try and make it thru the holidays. "Then we'll have to see about going thru another long battle in the courts. Even though the court has sided with us, White seems to have the real power."

Credit Union Opens to Help Spanish People

by Peter Blasini
Junta for Progressive Action

On November 12, a new credit union called the Spanish Brotherhood Credit Union was established at the Junta Office on 649 Howard Avenue. The goal of the new credit union is to promote the economic and general well-being of Spanish speaking people on a state-wide basis. Already the credit union has a membership from such places as Wallingford, Hartford, and New Haven.

The Spanish Brotherhood Credit Union operates on the $5 or $10 contribution given to the credit union every other week by its members. From the money collected, investment and credit activities will be made possible to individuals and groups who participate in the plan.

Mr. Raphael Fiol, the President of the Spanish Brotherhood Credit Union, stated that if all goes well, by June of this year the credit union will have enough money to begin its activities. During the intervening months, meetings will be held throughout Connecticut to increase the credit union's membership to at least 150 persons.

This would give the credit union a sufficient amount of money to begin these activities. Thus far, the credit union has a membership of over 50 people and has collected over $1,000.

How the money will be used will be determined by the membership body within the months ahead; however, Mr. Fiol indicated that credit and investment ventures will hopefully be launched by the credit union as a whole as well as by the individual and group members (such as businesses and neighborhood groups) which comprise the plan.

In addition to the credit and investment activities, Mr. Fiol stated that the credit union will attempt to make provisions for the social welfare needs of its members. For example, if a member is temporarily unemployed, the Credit Union will do all in its power to find a job for the unemployed member or even to provide the member with a form of workman's compensation.

The Spanish Brotherhood Credit Union is being sponsored by Junta for Progressive Action and its treasurer is Marcos Ocasio, executive director of Junta. Additional inquiries will be answered by calling the Junta office, 624-6679.

Abortion Decision

(Continued from page 1)

They also emphasized the fact that the existing anti-abortion laws fall most heavily on poor women in violation of the constitution. Well-to-do women can avoid the law without punishment by seeking expensive abortions in other countries or in New York, since the liberalization of that State's law.

Court Case Soon

The Court of Appeals decision makes it likely that Women vs. Connecticut can present its women's rights arguments to a federal court of three judges in the near future.

"We have a tremendous organizing job ahead of us now. Although the suit was originally filed in behalf of 858 women, the number of plaintiffs has now increased to 1500 women. We have to contact all of our plaintiffs about the decision and hold meetings all over the State to plan our trial and activities around it, said Harriet Katz, another organizer for the suit.

"We are going to win, but we need all the womenpower in Connecticut to make that victory and to celebrate afterwards."

Editorial

Modern Times supports Women vs.Connecticut, the law suit challenging Connecticut's abortion laws, and people everywhere who are fighting for legal abortions. Up to a thousand American women a year are dying from butchered abortions and many unwanted children are left yearly in institutional homes.

There are several other reasons we support the fight for legal abortions. First, we feel that no woman should have to undergo the psychological and emotional strain of carrying an unwanted pregnancy to term and of having to alter her life in order to provide care for a child. In a society where women, particulary unmarried mothers, have the job of raising children, they should be able to determine for themselves whether or not they wish to assume that responsibility.

Second, a family that is just making it financially should not have to be strapped with the responsibility of an additional mouth to feed. In our society, parents are almost totally responsible for raising their children and preparing them to be independent. The lack of free, parent-controlled child care centers keeps women in their homes, prohibiting them from being wage earners and sometimes forcing them to go on welfare.

Third, it is mostly poor women who carry the burden of the present system of laws that inhibit abortions. To get an abortion in Connecticut now, a woman must submit the statements of two doctors indicating that her life would be endangered were she to have the child. That takes money and contacts. And poor women are less able than wealthy ones to make arrangements for an abortion in some other state or country.

Of course, all of the above arguments are in the context of a society where neither the government nor industry assumes responsibility for the youth of our nation. We see the struggle for abortion to be related to the struggle for a soceity in which the profit motive does not have priority over the quality of people's lives. In such a society, the responsibility for children would not have to be forn solely by the parents. There would be child care centers available to free women from the isolation of their homes. Medical care (including abortions) would be ministered to serve the needs of the people and not of doctors, drug companies and private hospitals. The state has no right to impose controls upon decisions pertinent to an individual's personal life.

VOLUME II, NUMBER 17
Circulation 4,000

MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editor.

MODERN TIMES

Subscriptions: 148 Orange St., New Haven
Editorial Offices: 441 Chapel St., New Haven
562-2510

MODERN TIMES is a non-profit volunteer labor publication of the American Independent Movement

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where the hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.
We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need—not what is profitable.
The American Independent Movement (AIM) has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent helath care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, George Andrews, Harry Andrews, Jan Baecker, Elizabeth Bennett, Marshall Bergen, Virginia Blaisdell, Matt Borenstein, Arlene Butler, Greg Butler, Katrina Clark, Ellen Comisso, Arlyce Currie, Joan Dimow, Joe Dimow, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Suzy Duling, Steve Ellner, Art Fleischner, Linda Garson, Sam Goodwin, Harry Henderson, Liz Henderson, Bill Hersey, Shoshana Hersey, Larry Hogan, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Alan Kay, Henry Lowendorf, Pat Lowendorf, Scott McIntosh, Alan McKnight, Art Mazer, Patti Miller, John Moldenhauer, Kathy Moldenhauer, John Moulder, Betty Murray, Stephanie Ney, Steve Ney, Laurie Nussdorfer, Barbara O'Connell, Craig O'Connell, Peter O'Connell, April Reiss, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florie Ricciuti, Greg Smith, June Taylor, Dan Vapnek, Virginia Walbot, Dick Wieland, Karen Wolff, Rick Wolff.

On Abortion

by Harriet Wolff, Kathy Moldenhauer, Liz Henderson, and Patti Miller

This article is the first in a series on health and abortion.

Legal or not, abortion is a fact of our society. An estimated one million women receive abortions every year in the United States. Although about one out of five pregnant women in the United States receive abortions (*Time*, Oct. 13, 1967), less than one percent are performed legally.

Many doctors consider the fetus part of a woman's body until it is developed enough to survive outside the womb. Abortion is, therefore, the removal of a fetus before it can live on its own--otherwise removal is birth. The safest abortions are performed during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy while the fetus is still very tiny.

Despite the threat of heavy punishments ($500-$1000 fines and up to five years in jail), unwanted pregnancies force thousands of Connecticut women to seek abortions every year. The largest number of women seeking illegal abortions are 21-25 years old, and most of them are married.

Illegal Abortions Kill

The cost of abortions is very high. Illegal abortions kill between 500 and 1000 women each year. Legal hospital abortions are much safer. There are only three deaths per 100,000 abortions. About 35 percent of the million women who receive illegal abortions suffer hemorrhages, infections, and sterility. They pay hundreds of dollars and are considered criminals by society.

***But money can buy a legal abortion. In Connecticut a woman with enough money can arrange to have her physician* and a psychiatrist state that bearing a child would endanger her physically or psychologically. An abortion performed on the basis of such a statement is called a therapeutic abortion. At Yale-New Haven Hospital, a therapeutic abortion costs close to $700.**

Before New York changed its law, the number of therapeutic abortions performed in private hospitals was three times as high as in municipal hospitals. The fee in private hospitals was up to $1000, while in municipal hospitals the fee averaged $150.

Legal abortions are clearly much more available to women with high incomes. In New York there was also a marked ethnic difference among the women receiving therapeutic abortions. The ratio of therapeutic abortions per 1000 deliveries was 2.6 for white women, .5 for black women, and .1 for Puerto Rican women.

Money can also buy a relatively safe illegal abortion. The cost of such an abortion runs from $400 to $1600. Many of the women who cannot afford this expense end up in the hospital anyway when they need treatment for the complications of their botched abortions.

Pros and Cons

Abortion is a controversial and highly emotional issue. Some of the opponents of abortion argue that a fetus is a living human being and that abortion is murder. Many doctors disagree. They consider the fetus to be a part of a woman's body until it is developed enough to survive outside the womb.

Other opponents of abortion argue that if abortions are easy and available, women will also be easy and available. The advocates of liberal abortion laws reply that the existence of fairly reliable means of contraception make this argument irrelevant.

Under the law in most of the United States, the father is financially responsible for a child. The mother, however, bears the primary responsibility for raising the child. She is liable to arrest if she abandons her children. Opponents of abortion argue that if a woman becomes pregnant she should bear the child.

Abortion advocates point out that bearing a child is only the beginning. In order for birth itself not to be a punishment, a loving environment, a good education, good health care, and many other things, are all necessities. Yet our society does not promise to help a woman provide for her children. Until society does guarantee to take care of every child, the advocates of abortion argue, the woman herself should have the right to decide whether or not to bear a child.

One-fifth of all births are reported as being unwanted. By income, the proportion of births reported as unwanted is twice as high for families that earn less than $3000 a year than it is for families that make over $10,000 a year. Even if the most effective method of contraception, the "combination pill", were used by all of the women in the United States, there would still be 24,000 unwanted pregnancies.

Our Mistake

In the previous issue of Modern Times, Dec. 15-31, the members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1370, were incorrectly identified in the page 1 photo. The caption should have read, from left to right: Ken Preiss, Vice-President (partial photo); Ed Parrett, Safety Committee; Ray Rohen; Steve DeMatteo, Grievance Chairman; Ralph Capasso, President.

Write On

THEIR FAULT; MY MONEY

To the Editors:

Taking an eight pound load of laundry to the West Shore Cleaners on Whalley Avenue is not as simple as one would think. But the price of eight pounds for $2.50 is quite attractive to a person such as myself who is unemployed, living on just over $100 per week with three children and a wife to support. The clothing was taken just as it had been many times before, with the exception that it wasn't put on the scale. At this I inquired of the attendant why it wasn't weighed.

"It doesn't have to be weighed."

Well, I guess she knew what she was doing so I put the $2.50 on the counter which is the way it is customary with poundage laundry. Again she tells me, "you should pay when it is finished."

Two weeks later I go back to the cleaners to find that I don't owe them $2.50 but $13.60! Man, what a shock! They charged me by the piece instead of the pound.

There is very little money for Christmas and this dude tells me that, although there was a mistake made, I don't get the clothes back until I cough up the $13.60.

After consulting with Legal Aid, I am told I don't have a legal leg to stand on, so, I have no choice but to pay a reduced price of $10.00 instead because of *their* error. The manager tells me that he will not make any profit on the deal, but it doesn't seem to me that he pays his employees anywhere near $10.00 per hour so I know he is a liar and that I have been gypped. Which leads me to believe that P.T. Barnum was right, "there's a sucker born every minute."

Angry Consumer

HARASSMENT CHARGED

To the Editor:

My name is not Annunziato, but I am

Continued on Page 7

World Affairs

Why U.S. Backed Pakistan

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

Why is the U.S. supporting the dictatorship in Pakistan? What explains the fact that the U.S. opposes the Indian government's policies which have the backing of the U.S.S.R.? To answer these questions is also to say something about the goals and methods of the foreign policy of the United States.

When the political and military forces led by Mao Tse-tung won the civil war in China in 1949, the United States considered that it had "lost" China. The new communist government quickly let it be known that U.S. businessmen could no longer do business as usual in China. The new government was going to go it alone, building a socialist economy with the help of other socialist societies. For America this was seen as a blow not only because China was "lost", but also because a socialist China would exert a pro-socialist influence throughout Asia.

What made matters worse was the situation in India, the second most populous nation in Asia. After winning independence from England in 1947, India seemed determined to steer a neutralist course, avoiding alliance with either the U.S.S.R. or the U.S. The Indian government also declared itself "socialist", but did not rule out U.S. investments as the Chinese did.

Britain Drew the Map

However, before the British left, they actively helped create a new nation split into two halves located on either side of India. This was Pakistan, a Moslem country born out of tensions with Hindu India. Very soon after 1947, Pakistan proved to be the least "socialist" of the giants in Asia. The U.S. poured hundreds of millions of dollars into Pakistan to build up its influence in that part of Asia and to build up a counterweight against the communist Chinese and against the neutralist, "socialist" Indians.

U.S. foreign policy has been critical of India ever since. President Eisenhower's Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, never tired of denouncing the "gutless neutralism" of India. Washington never trusted India. In the fight to "contain" China and its influence in Asia, Washington was furious at being unable to count on any real support from India.

The money which the U.S. gave to India it gave grudgingly. Its purpose was to prevent India from moving further in the direction suggested by China. When the Indians, in desperate need for more aid from abroad, turned to Russia, it found the Russians quite willing. This made Washington distrust the Indians even more, but, at the same time, it forced the U.S. to increase aid to India if only to limit Russia's growing influence in New Delhi.

United States' policies in Asia were founded on two basic points: block the influence of China and control India as much as possible. This policy would, it was hoped, avoid the "loss" of any more countries in Asia for U.S. corporations who had intentions of doing business there.

To contain China, the U.S. built its alliance with Chiang Kai-shek, fought the Korean War, and built the ring of military bases and powerful local armies that face China's borders on nearly every side. Part of the explanation for Washington's war in Vietnam lies in the older anti-China policy.

To control India, the United States had to do two things at once. First, provide India with enough financial support to forestall internal revolution and to limit the growth of Russian influence. Second, provide Pakistan with enough financial support to keep it afloat as a major, non-socialist nation in Asia and as a hostile neighbor to India. So the U.S. has for years matched aid to India with aid to Pakistan.

In the U.S.'s view, this Asian policy worked quite well for the last 20 years. Corporate investments have expanded and produced record profits throughout most of "non-communist" Asia, including even India. Only Vietnam threatened to upset this convenient (to the United States) arrangement in Asia. Until the latest India-Pakistan conflict.

The Present Conflict

India made war on Pakistan in order to help the rebels in the eastern part of Pakistan establish a new and independent country, Bangla Desh. India knows that Bangla Desh will be a dependent and close ally of India, instead of a hostile neighbor.

While this new arrangement fit into India's needs, Washington did not see things that way. India was upsetting the apple cart which had served Washington so well for so long. Russian aid to the Indian war against Pakistan had strengthened her influence in New Delhi. This made India's expanded power in Asia even less acceptable to Washington. Nixon's hostile reaction to India and his pro-Pakistan position simply reflects the logical position of the U.S. to take in view of all that has gone on since 1947.

Nixon is simply carrying out the policy he inherited. He opposes any serious alteration of the balance of power in Asia. That objective will guide U.S. Policies toward the new state of Bangla Desh, toward other changes made by Asian peoples and toward the risk of more U.S. wars in that part of the world.

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an Annunziato and proud of it. For your *readers (New Haven Police Dept. or Arnold Markle's so-called Regional Crime Squad) my name is Vincent Salvatore* Benedetti. My uncle died Tuesday, November 9, 1971. It just so happens that his name was Annunziato, may his soul Rest in Peace – if our so-called Law Enforcement Agencies would let him.

On Friday, November12, 1971, we paid our last respects at my uncle's funeral mass at St. Donato's Church. As the funeral procession pulled up in front of the Church, two detectives in a car (a gold Chevrolet) parked on Lombard Street sat taking pictures of the grieving funeral party entering the Church. Our family feels that this was an invasion of our privacy and a personal harassment to us. Do you, the public, think this is any way of showing decency or respect for the family of the one who has just passed away? Do you feel that this is one of the things you want to support with your tax dollars?

I have one suggestion for what Arnold Markle can do. I was shot 2-½ years ago by a union official, Elwood Metz, Sr. of the Operating Engineers Union, Local 478, for unknown reasons. He was arrested and charged with assault with intent to kill, and till this day has never been brought to trial. Why? Is it because I am related to the Annunziatos, or is it because these Law Enforcement Agencies, whose salaries are paid with our tax dollars, are too busy arresting people for gambling, and other misdemeanors to proceed with a case which is 2½ years old?

After this morning's incident at the church, which was witnessed by so many friends and family, I sincerely hope that this letter lets Arnold Markle and his so-called Detectives sleep well at night after harassing a dead man and his family. And he calls this justice? Now I sincerely believe justice is blind, especially if the man or men behind it can't see beyond their own *EGO*.

Sincerely,
Vincent Salvatore Benedetti

"Before we demand that Congress protect our industry against cheap foreign imports manufactured at slave-labor wages, I'd like to remind you, sir, that we own sixty seven per cent of those foreign factories!"

From Victory Lodge, IAM Local 609 Newsletter

BLACK SASH

To the Editors:

The movement known as the **Black Sash** made its first appearance of many scheduled throughout the state at the New Haven Welfare Committee hearing Wednesday at the Hall of Records. Perhaps both the public and some of the legislators present on that occasion are asking the question: "What is the Black Sash?"

Those women taking part that evening in the Black Sash "vigil" chose not to announce themselves by giving testimony, as a symbol of the fact that we are women "in mourning" (hence the wearing of the black sash across the shoulder) -- in mourning that such inhumane action as the 15% welfare cuts can be proposed in a state with such high per-capita income. However, it may now be said that the Black Sash will again be holding a "vigil", where its goals and expectations will be verbalized through the testimony of some of its individual members -- this time at the regional hearing of the State Welfare Committee to be held Dec. 1st at the Capitol.

Meanwhile we do not wish to leave any doubt in anyone's mind as to who we are and what we stand for. Briefly, the Black Sash Movement has been initiated in Connecticut by concerned women who, knowing what is involved in keeping a home together with a limited budget, have chosen to deplore the benefit reductions to Connecticut's 30,000 welfare families. Already, as the movement emerges in various communities, we are finding support amongst members of such organizations as the Human Relations Council, the Urban League, the Archdiocesan Office of Urban Affairs, League of Women Voters of many local units, Church Women United on the state and local level, groups within the YWCA, sisters from local convents, and groups of white welfare mothers, to mention a few.

The Black Sash has no political affiliation. It is modelled on the movement by the same name which began in the Republic of South Africa in 1955, initiated by white women to *rouse public opinion in that segregated land over certain unjust legislation directed against the voteless* black majority. Membership was composed of white women voters who felt that a white electorate bore the guilt for the discriminatory laws being passed in their name.

Today, here in our own state, women and children on welfare are becoming the "sacrificial lambs" because of the need to economize during the present fiscal crisis. They are being used as scapegoats simply because they are the invisible and powerless citizens, and from a minimum subsistence level they are being submerged below the poverty line. For who among us, whether we are housewives, bread-winners or taxpayers, can keep a family housed, clothed, fed and warm with a pittance of $253 a month? Rent alone, even in public housing, will eat up as much as half of this amount.

At the very least, our movement is requesting that a 120-day moratorium be granted, in order to allow the next session of the General Assembly to respond to the situation responsibly. We must in the meantime convince our legislators that our priorities in economizing do not include destroying the human values upon which our society has been built or forcing thousands of mothers and children into a situation that is dehumanizing and degrading.

The Black Sash is only one way of bringing this issue to the attention of the public and of identifying with those families affected in their fight to keep what little they have had. There are many other ways, including deluging Senator Ciarlone's Committee (Corrections, Welfare, and Humane Institutions) with mail, c/o 232 St. John St., New Haven; or writing the Governor himself. Contact your League of Women Voters if you do not know the names of your own legislators.

Respectfully yours,
Black Sash

Public Housing: Elm Haven

Elm Haven as it is now. Tenants have not only won the right to participate in planning what needs to be "fixed" but also--with the help of the Dixwell Legal Rights Association--will be able to ensure that the jobs are done well. They will also have a chance to do paid work themselves. (M–T photos on this page by G. Frankel.)

TENANTS COUNCIL—

Continued from page 1

led by president Carline Williams, responded by contacting Washington and holding up the federal funds until the guidelines for tenant involvement were met. They obtained help from New Haven Legal Assistance, including lawyer Steve Darley. Eventually, they agreed to let the plan go through, and they signed the "Memorandum of Understanding" with Ed White of the Housing Authority.

Tenants Involved

The "Memorandum of Understanding," which was signed on November 24, provides that tenants must approve all plans before they go to bid, that tenants are to be hired as inspectors, and that before a bid is approved, the contractor must work out an agreement with tenants to hire the maximum number of tenants possible as actual labor on the job.

The heating system at Quinnipiac was the first contract to come up. William Fischer Co. of North Haven won the bid and met with tenants and the Housing Authority as provided by the Memorandum of Understanding.

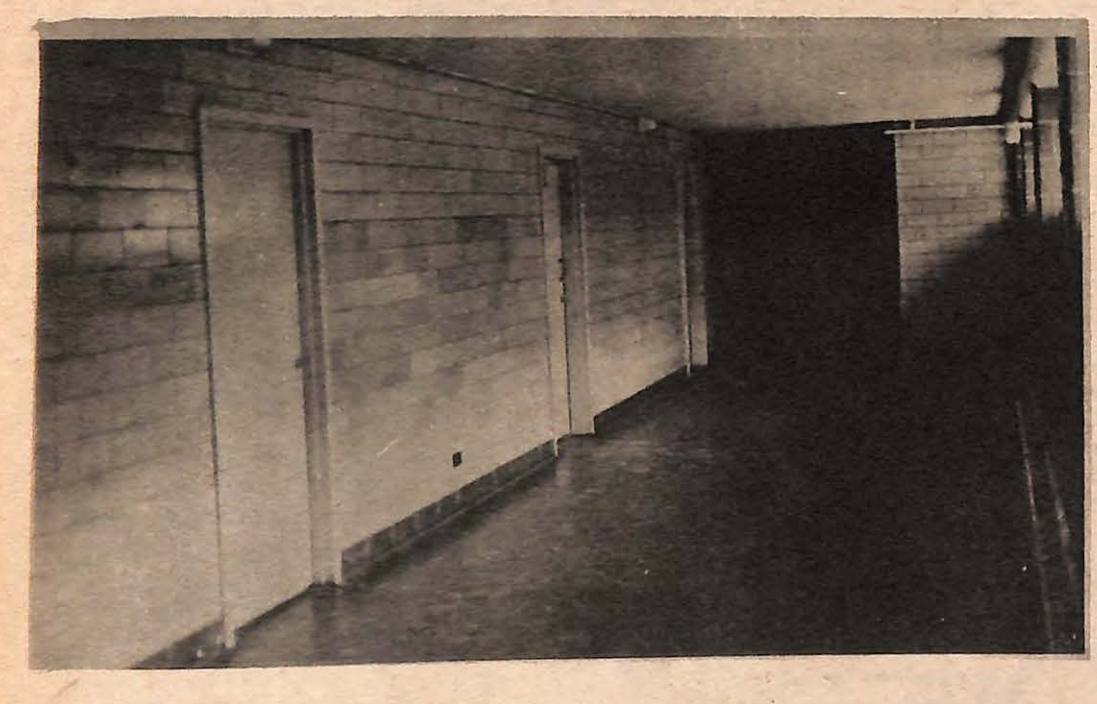
The Quinnipiac agreement may serve as a model for other modernization work to be done under the $1.65 million grant. At Elm Haven, work is scheduled to include new doors and security system, and a nonpolluting solid waste disposal system.

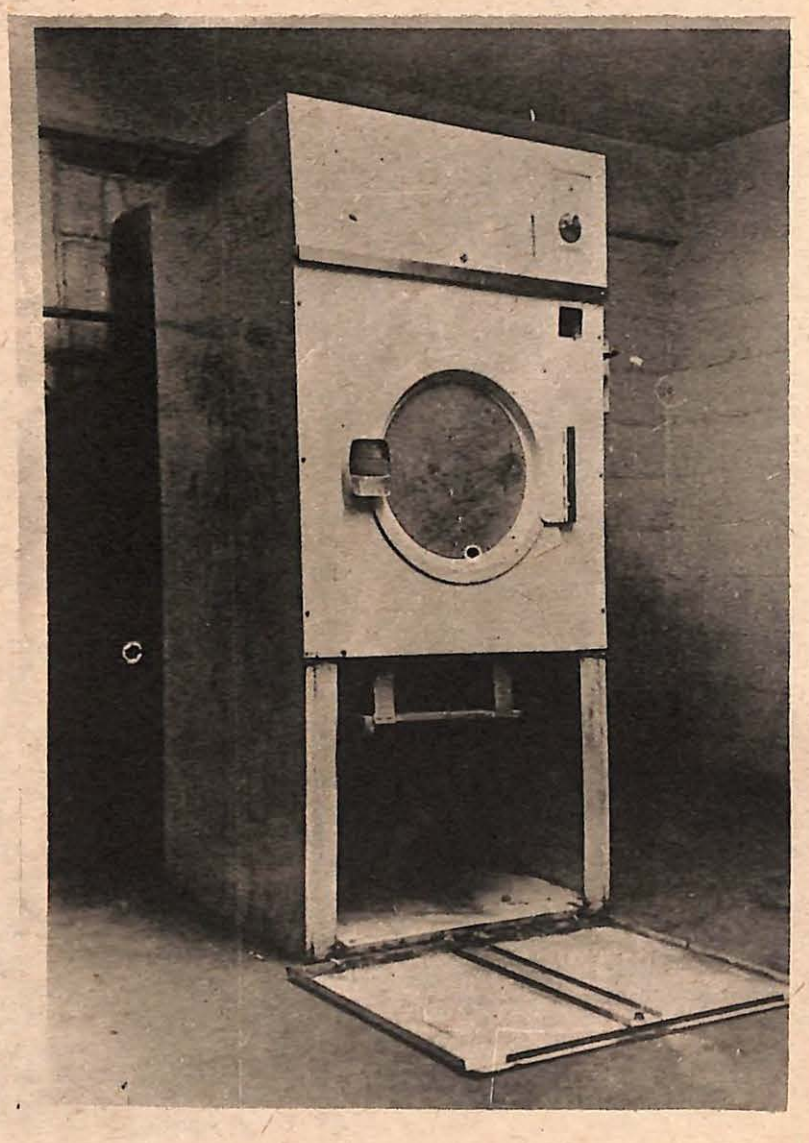
"What happened at Quinnipiac is what we hope to get at all the projects," said Alberta Russell. "People who live here in Elm Haven should get the jobs. Last time they pulled people off the streets of New York to work. We have many people here who have no jobs. They can't pay the rent, so they get thrown out."

"Another thing," added Russell, "is to let the tenants know their rights. They didn't ask for a hearing, but just moved out when they couldn't pay."

Steve Darley of Legal Assistance pointed out that the Memorandum of Understanding gives the tenants some legal power. Under the federal guidelines there was no way of enforcing an agreement. But the Memorandum of Understanding is a binding legal contract.

"If we say the job's not completed and the Housing Authority or the contractor say it is, then it gives us some rights," added Alma Beck.





Lead in Air From Gas

by Tony Dominski
Environmental Offensive

If you live and breathe in the inner city, you may be absorbing unhealthy amounts of lead from auto exhausts. City dust may contain up to one per cent lead which is as high as the level in some lead ores. Up to half of the lead taken into the lungs in the form of lead particles may be absorbed into the blood.

Science (July 9, 1971) reports that animals in the Staten Island Zoo have died from lead poisoning. High lead levels were found in grass leaves and soil collected on the zoo grounds. The animals with the highest blood lead levels lived outside, suggesting that lead from auto exhausts was causing the poisoning.

Americans have the world's highest blood lead levels because they use the most leaded gasoline. An average American's blood contains one-quarter of the lead defined as the industrial danger level for lead poisoning. People with occupational exposure to lead, i.e., in battery factories or who live near busy streets or highways have markedly higher levels than people without such exposure.

Lead can cause premature death to red blood cells. Hemoglobin is the substance that enables the blood to carry oxygen. Thus, the production of hemoglobin can be dangerously slowed by a high lead level.

Poor Most Susceptible

Lead and sickel cell anemia have similar affects on red blood cells and the people with sickle cell anemia or other red blood cell defects are most *sensitive to lead poisoning. Black children who have the most exposure to lead in peeling paint and peeling plaster* and who play on the most heavily travelled streets with lead-carrying auto exhaust, are also susceptible to sickle cell anemia Thus they are the portion of our population most susceptible to lead poisoning.

At present, lead from automobiles is not recognized as a danger by the National Air Pollution Control Office. This attitude stems from a report submitted by the National Academy of Sciences which stated that there was no danger from atmospheric lead. The conclusion of the report raises doubts as to the scientific objectivity of the Academy.

According to **Environment** magazine (June, 1971), it is possible under the currently developed fuel and engine technology to remove all lead from gasoline by 1973. The question is whether or not the auto manufacturers, oil companies and government regulatory agencies are willing to get it together.

Jetport Opposition Reborn

by Sam Goodwin
East Haven Resident

The Committee Against Airport Expansion (CAAE) sponsored a public meeting Monday evening, December 20, at St Clare's Roman Catholic Church on Coe Avenue, East Haven.

The purpose of the meeting was to give facts about their legal rights to residents of those areas of East Haven and New Haven that lie near the Tweed-New Haven Airport and near or under its approach-and-take-of zones.

Over 300 people heard invormative and hard-hitting talks by CAAE chairman Louis Audette, East Haven Mayor Frank Messina, Morgan Point resident Michael Criscuolo, and Richard Moriarty of the engineering firm Brian and Panico.

Secret Plans

Audette projected maps, diagrams, and newspaper clippings on a screen to show that the promoters of the Tweed-New Haven Airport (owned by the City of New Haven) have unpublicized plans to extend the airport far beyond the installation of the Instrument Landing System (ILS), now in progress, and full use of the extended runway (5200 feet) which has already forced the closing of Ora Avenue at the south end of the runway.

Audette said that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been relentlessly pushing its plans to expand Tweed-New Haven even though the Airlines are not eager to stop here. In addition, the location is one of the worst in the Northeast because of the dense population and surrounding hills.

While ILS may mean greater safety per plane, it will almost certainly mean more planes per year approaching lower and thus actually increase the danger to homes and people in the area.

Land to be Condemned

Audette continued that the airport promoters have plans to extend the north-south runway to 6300 feet. The extension will require the condemnation of all the property in a belt about one thousand feet wide all the way to and across Silver Sands Road, the only remaining link between Morgan Point and the rest of East Haven.

Short-take-off-and landing planes (STOL) exist which -- when in mass production -- will make runways of over 2000 feet obsolete.

He also showed photographs of comparable shore-and salt-marsh areas which expansion of nearby airports has made uninhabitable except by dirty industry.

Audette is one of seven residents of Morgan Point and Morris Cove who has been tentatively awarded $18400 by a federal court. The award is tentative because New Haven will appeal.

The $18,400 was awarded to the seven as compensation for specific property devaluation caused by aircraft -- especially jets -- flying low over or near their homes.

PERISCOPE
On The Environment

PARKING GARAGES, PARKING GARAGES!!

The fight for clean air, safe streets, and peace and quiet is being threatened one more time by two prospective parking garages courtesy of Yale and St. Raphael's Hospital. At an Aldermanic Legislation Committee hearing Wednesday, December 22, two petitions were presented. Yale asked for an 800 car parking garage on the corner of Whitney and Edwards Street and St. Raphael's petitioned for a 745 car garage on the corner of Chapel and Orchard Streets. As usual the City Plan Commission gave its blessing. For the time being however, the petitions were tabled pending further study. (If you think 1545 spaces is a lot of parking garage--it is peanuts compared to the 5000 car garage planned for State Street.)

WEST HAVE WETLANDS CONTROVERSY

On Monday, December 13 the State Department of Environmental Protection held a public hearing in Milford on proposed boundaries for Milford and West Haven wetlands which would then come under state protection against destruction.

The liveliest part of the meeting centered upon a topic which was not on the agenda --the controversy over the Cove River tide gates recently installed by the town of West Haven. The tide gates were favored by Mayor Zarnowski and a number of property owners because they would keep out salt water. With the marsh considered fresh instead of salt water, it would be exempt from the state anti-dumping statute. The Cove River wetlands have been the scene of extensive dumping in the past few months.

The Cove River Study Group prepared a video tape on the tidegate controversy for the hearing but was barred from showing it because it was not on the agenda. The study group favored removal of the tidegates. Last week a court order by the State Department of Environmental Protection sought to have the city of West Haven remove the tide gates. However, as of December 23, the tide gates were still in place and Mayor Zarnowski was still standing his ground.

REMEMBER WHEN???

It was just two years ago this Christmas Eve that the Fair Haven Betterment Association perfumed the Mill River.Judging by the smell another perfuming might be a good idea.

UI's Green Thumb: A Few Barbs

The United Illuminating Co. has responded to criticism of its pollution by putting up a few scraggly trees. (M-T photo by A. Kay)

For Beauty

Libbi Rayder
IT'S RESOLUTION TIME AGAIN, FOLKS.
THIS YEAR I RESOLVE NOT TO GET MESSED OVER BY BOSSES, LANDLORDS, OR STATE AGENCYS!!
I WONDER HOW LONG I CAN HOLD OUT.

Introduction to Socialism

The A.B.C. of Socialism

by Leo Huberman

What is socialism? What do socialists really believe? What's it got to do with America, with New Haven, with the here and now? In answer to questions like these from our readers, **Modern Times** *decided to begin, in this issue, a series of short articles.*

The author is Leo Huberman (1903 - 1968). A longtime activist in the American labor movement, he was also a socialist who devoted himself to teaching and writing about the principles of socialism. For years he worked in the National Maritime Union's school in New York. We are taking these articles from Huberman's pamphlet, **The ABC of Socialism**, *which is justly famous for its clear and down-to-earth style. The Editors*

The only thing most Americans know about socialism is that they don't like it. They have been led to believe that socialism is something to be either ridiculed as impractical, or feared as an instrument of the devil.

This is a disturbing situation. It is a mistake to dismiss or condemn so important a subject on the basis of the extremely superficial and biased accounts of it which are now so widespread in the United States. Socialism is a world-wide movement. The millions who hate it in this country are matched by millions in other countries who rejoice in it. No idea has ever caught the imagination of so many people in so short a time.

Socialism has already become the way of life for some 200,000,000 people -- the inhabitants of one-sixth of the earth's surface. It is fast becoming the way of life for an additional 600,000,000 people. These two groups together make up approximately one-third of the earth's population.

It is deplorable, therefore, that socialism for many Americans is nothing more than a dirty word. Whether it be good or evil, whether it should be fought against or striven for, it must first be understood. To help achieve that understanding is the purpose of this pamphlet.

The first half outlines the socialist economic analysis of capitalism -- its structure and its defects -- with particular reference to the United States today. The second half deals with the theory of socialism -- with its greatest thinkers and what they taught. By far the most important and influential figures in the development of basic socialist doctrine were Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. It is their concept of socialism which has lived and is today the foundation stone of the movement on every continent -- and which forms the basis for this pamphlet.

A word of warning. The picture as we present it, is unvarnished and stark. It will dismay some readers, anger others. That is to be expected. To have one's attitudes and beliefs challenged in so direct a fashion is always a shock. The wise reader, therefore, will read through the whole pamphlet before coming to any definite conclusions about socialist philosophy.

Finally, it should be remembered that this pamphlet is an introduction to socialism, a sketch of its main outlines, nothing more. The literature on the subject is vast; interested readers should not stop with this elementary A-B-C but go on to the many other works which treat the topic with the thoroughness it deserves.

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Fall Into Wonderland

by Jim Walsh

Alice in Wonderland is currently being presented at the Long Wharf Theater and it is a wonderful experience for young and old. In fact, I am always finding myself wondering who enjoys this "Children's Theatre Series" more, my children or their father.

The stage production of Alice in Wonderland is lively, engaging and imaginative. The difficulties in making this book into a stage production are considerable. For instance, portraying a March Hare or a Mad Hatter is one thing, but bringing to life a door or a table and having them alife a door or a table and having them appear to grow and shrink as Alice eats The fact of the matter is that the Long Wharf Theatre production of *Alice in Wonderland* appears to be a "natural" for the stage, and as such is thoroughly enjoyable.

One of the very nice touches to the production is the way in which the audience is drawn into the happenings on the stage. The play begins with one of the actors sauntering on stage strumming a guitar. He is joined by another playing a simple melody on a recorder and then another loudly humming this melody as he plays his tambourine

Soon the whole company is popping up, singing and clapping. The audience joins in until one of the players moves to the center of the stage. She gently motions the audience to hush while the voices of her fellow players drift off. While the children are now leaning forward with rapt attention, all eyes are on the little girl who announces, "My name is Alice!" Thoroughly engaging.

Finally, a word on my children's reaction. Coreen and Kathy are five and six years old. They are stifled by an inadequate educational system and watch entirely too much television. The live Theater brings a vitality to their entertainment which cannot be duplicated in any other setting. "Alice" was their sixth play and they can remember every one of them.

Recently I took my children to see the circus, paying more than twice as much for the tickets as for the Long Wharf Theater tickets. Half way through, they were bored and ready to go home. This has never happened at Long Wharf. My difficulty is in trying to explain to them why we can only go four times a year.

Irv Stolberg May Regain Job at SCSC

by David Adams
Modern Times Staff

Irv Stolberg, the popular former teacher at Southern Connecticut State College, appears to be on the verge of winning a major court case. Stolberg was fired several years ago after he had organized against the War in Vietnam and spoken out on student unrest and deficiences in the college administration.

Stolberg, presently a State Representative, and a professor at Quinnipiac College, is suing President Hilton Buley and the Board of Trustees at Southern. He rested his side of the case on December 21, and to everyone's surprise, the defense did not even present a case. In fact, they conceded that Stolberg should be granted reinstatement and tenure.

The case could be a major precedent for teachers who are fired or threatened for speaking out on political issues. "Just think how many people in Irv's position have been hurt because rather than put up a fight they just preferred to leave their job. And how many others have recognized the threat against speaking out and have just kept silent," said one source close to the case.

In legal terms the suit asks payment for damages under provisions of the Federal Civil Rights Act. It charges that Stolberg was denied his Constitutional rights to free speech and due process under the law when he was fired from Southern. *If Stolberg wins, he may be awarded* damages at the expense of the defendants.

For Academic Freedom

Stolberg told *Modern Times*, "I am pleased that the trial is concluded and that it went the way it did. It's been a long and difficult ordeal for me, but I hope it helps academic freedom and due process in State schools."

"While the judge's decision is pending," he continued, "I still can't talk about the actual evidence, but following the decision I'm going to actively pursue correction of the flaws in due process and tenure in the State college system. As a professor I want to protect students and faculty against the kind of thing that happened to me. And as a State legislator I am concerned that the same due process would protect administrators and trustees from consequences of otherwise precipitous and unwise acts."

Invitations and auditions to join an amateur community symphony orchestra directed by Dr. George Jacobson are extended to qualified instrumentalists in the Greater New Haven area. The orchestra, in its fourth season, rehearses on Wednesday evenings 7:30 to 9:30 in the Fine Arts Building of Southern Connecticut State College. Concerts are planned in December, March, April and May.

For information call 397-2101 (ext. 286 or 287), 387-8224, or 387-3808 (after 5:00 p.m.).

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Downtown: Red's Newstand, Elm-State; News Depot, Orange-George; Band Box, Chapel near College; Whitlock's, Broadway; Angela Davis Bookstore, Broadway.

Hamden: Cherry Hill Pharmacy, 1830 Dixwell; Soybel Pharmacy, Dixwell-Wooding.

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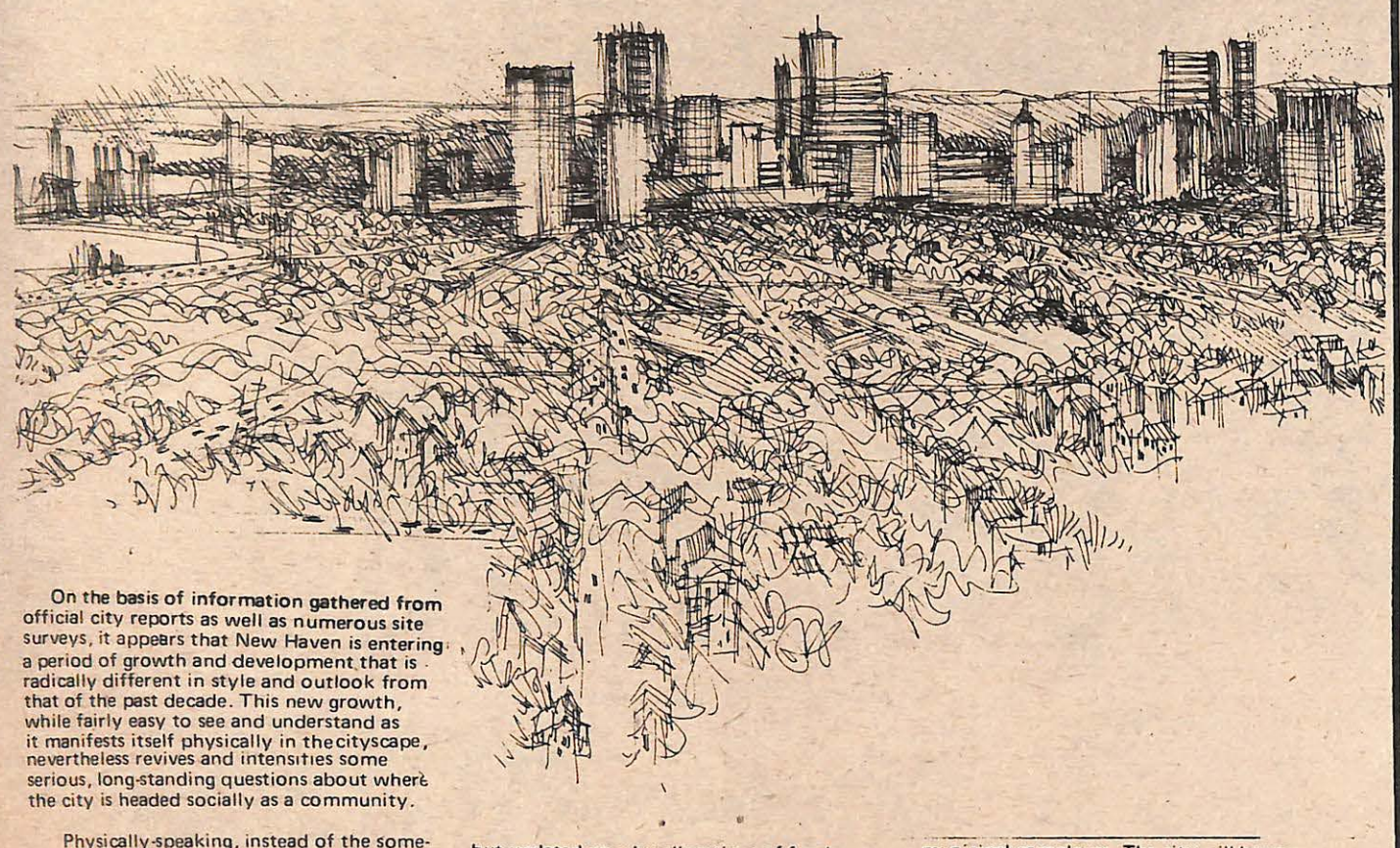
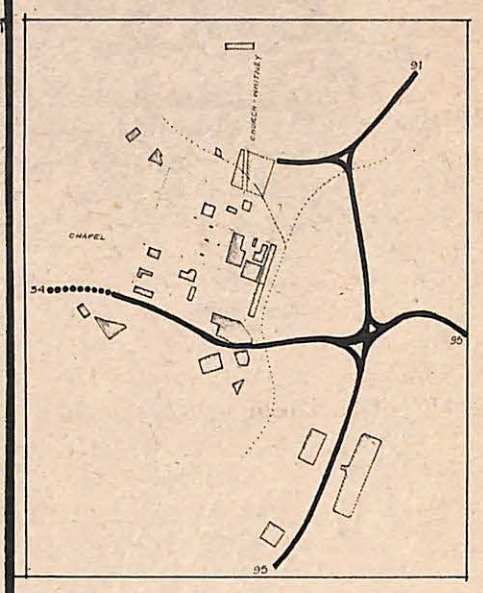
Classified

Wanted: Families with children 2½-3 years old to join cooperative daycare. Call 562-3938 weekdays between 9-5. Bishop Coop, 17 Bishop St., New Haven.

URBAN SEEN

NEW HAVEN IN THE 70's: IS THIS A COMMUNITY?





Recent projects, proposed or in construction, Yale and New Haven, 1971-78. The scale is enormous; many of the shaded areas represent the actual building. The new Long Wharf-Harbor development is at the bottom, the Green with the Government Center to its right is in the middle. The area covered by the map represents about one-twelfth of the city of New Haven.

On the basis of information gathered from official city reports as well as numerous site surveys, it appears that New Haven is entering a period of growth and development that is radically different in style and outlook from that of the past decade. This new growth, while fairly easy to see and understand as it manifests itself physically in the cityscape, nevertheless revives and intensifies some serious, long-standing questions about where the city is headed socially as a community.

Physically-speaking, instead of the sometimes brusque, scattered, "showcase" development of the 1960s, there will be a major consolidation and densification in New Haven's urban development in the next decade. This consolidation will be carried out almost exclusively in the downtown core by alliances of major national private businesses and developers with public city-state interests, while token development of decaying city neighborhoods is left pretty much to limping federal anti-poverty and Model City programs.

This new core development will be carried out on a much larger, faster scale than previously, partly by refining cope- and -bid procedures and the old bulldozer-and-interim-parking-lot techniques, but updated now by allocations of funds reaching as high as $100 million in a single throw and involving a good deal of complicated shifting around and renovation of existing-building functions interwoven with new construction in tightly-controlled, top-secret phases mapped out years in advance.

These changes will manifest themselves radically under, on, and over-ground in the city as a dense, tunnel-and-distribution-and-parking scheme is laid-in, streets are ripped out forever, and some whopping new high-rise structures appear on the skyline. Less emphasis will be placed on confidence-winning commercial development and much more on slick, monumental, business-cultural-municipal complexes. The city will borrow a few tricks from the suburbs down on Long Wharf where an essentially overblown strip development will get under way, and there will be some development on the fringes of the core that ties into new flings at mass transit. But still and all most of New Haven's development for the 1970s will focus on downtown and particularly on Church and State Streets, where the mind-boggling new Government Center will set the whole tone and pace.

This article is the first in a series of related articles dealing with New Haven's future development seen from various points of view, political, social, architectural, etc.

Money Talks

Agency Entraps Bartenders

by Naomi Resnick
Modern Times Staff

The Dale System of investigative services has been found guilty of using entrapment techniques and other illegal means to get workers in trouble with their employers, and in some cases fired. Dale agents are in most cases plain-clothesmen who specialize in undercover work.

Their job is to find and catch workers in stores and hotels in the act of stealing or breaking company rules. When the occasion arises that no one has broken any rules, Dale agents take it upon themselves to plant articles in employees' cars, and then claim that they've stolen these things. The workers then are questioned, investigated, and sometimes are given lie detector tests.

A former "disgruntled" Dale employee has made these unethical and illegal techniques public. John P. Lomenzo, New York Secretary of State has found Dale guilty of using these procedures, and has fined Dale $4750.

Addison H. Verrill, president of Dale System, was "shocked and astonished" by these findings. He said whoever was in charge of the case was acting as judge, jury and prosecutor. Verill is a resident of Hamden, Connecticut, and has participated in some important functions there. Among others, he was at one time the Democratic town chairman; served on various committees for the Northern Branch(in Hamden) of the YMCA; has been a member and president of the Hamden Lion's Club; and was also on the Hamden School Board.

It's harder to think someone is guilty if they've served on the School Board. Perhaps he wants everyone to see what a fine upstanding citizen the president of Dale System is. That way many of the accusations against them would seem all the more wrong.

Entrapment

In New Haven, the Dale System does a lot of work for major hotels and restaurants. Among them is the Sheraton-Park Plaza Hotel, which has been organized by Local 217, the Hotel and Restaurant employees' and Bartenders' union.

John Wilhelm, business agent for local 217, says that Dale agents try to get bartenders and waitresses to break rules, and then on this basis, file a complaint against them. A typical case would be an agent who is posing as a lonely salesman at a convention in some strange hotel far from his home. He might spend lots of time at the bar, talking to the bartender, and after a few days strike up a friendship with him. He might offer to buy the bartender a drink (which is against company rules) and when the bartender refuses, the agent might seem rather hurt about it. He might ask again and again, until the bartender gives in. The next day, that bartender will find that a report has been filed against him. A few of these reports can result in the bartender getting fired.

According to Wilhelm, the bartenders of Local 217 believe that since it costs so much to hire Dale agents, if they find no infractions, then they'll make them. These guys go out of their way to justify their existence, and to keep employers hiring them. The means they use are obviously unimportant to the agents.

A few years ago, Local 217 tried to repudiate the Dale agents' testimony, and they won. They saved a bartender from losing his job. It rarely happens that a judge will believe bartender over a Dale agent. Dale agents are basically policemen, and people respect policemen more that they do bartenders who are reputed by some people to be crooks and drunks. In a court situation, it's the worker's word against the Dale agent's word.

Wilhelm says that "the existence of such a report by a public official will make us more believablewhenwe do file a complaint againt Dale. It will encourage people to fight them, and encourage us to dig a little deeper into these cases." He believes it won't be as hard to break their testimony now that Secretary Lomenzo has found them guilty of illegal practices.

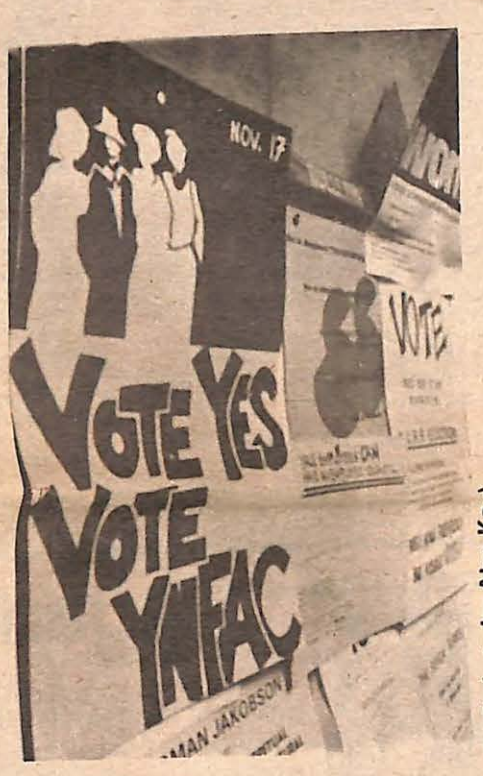
Most investigation agencies which are found guilty of violating their licences, automatically have them revoked. In this case, because the loss of a licence would throw so many people out of work, Dale System only has to pay a fine. One wonders how this fine(obviously a tiny amount for such a large company) will help all those bartenders, and waitresses, and other workers who've already lost their jobs.

As long as Dale has its licence, nothing will prevent it from using the same illegal procedures.

Reflections: 1971

Members of Local 35 march together to victory over Yale in the spring, (M-T photo by Cookie Polan)

Erica Huggins freed after waiting in prison two years for a verdict. (M-T photo by Phil Simon)



(M-T photo by Alan Kay)

American servicemen returned from Vietnam give anti-war protests new meaning. (M-T photo by Alan Kay)

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